

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10, and ending at page 1, line 12 with the following new paragraph:

B1 ~~---~~ The invention relates to a machine for trimming the ends of components of vertical blinds having a horizontal head rail and vertical strips or louvers ~~---~~

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 15, and ending at page 1, line 20, and replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20 through 24 with the following new paragraph:

B2 ~~---~~ In the past various apparatus has been designed for cutting down widths of specific designs, usually horizontal Venetian blinds. However, in general terms, these machines have not been totally suitable for cutting down both horizontal and vertical blinds, especially those being made from a variety of different materials. In addition, they have been somewhat more complex and costly than is required. In vertical blinds, the trolleys and the blind slats may be drawn along the head rail to one side or other of the window opening, or in some cases to both sides, and may be rotated between open and closed position, by a mechanism located in the head rail. These slats may be of aluminium, or may be formed of other materials such as thermo plastic, or of fabric. ~~---~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 through 19 with the following new paragraph:

B3 ~~---~~ With a view to providing a vertical blind cut down apparatus which addresses the various foregoing conflicting problems, the invention comprises a vertical blind cut-down apparatus for cutting a shade or a blind with the blind being of the type having at least a head rail component, and vertical window coverings suspended from the head rail. The apparatus has a blind component holding plate having at least a head rail opening and a blind slat opening formed

B3  
therein for receiving respective components of a blind therethrough. The apparatus holds them in position for cutting and has a blind slat cutting bar. The blind slat cutting bar is moveable relative to the holding plate. The apparatus further has a carrying blind slat cutting device for cutting blind slat material that extends through the holding plate, and a head rail cutting die support. The head rail cutting die support is adjacent to the cutting bar. The cutting die support carries at least one cutting die for receiving the head rail extending therethrough. The cutting bar is moveable relative to the holding plate for cutting the blind slat components. The apparatus further has movement means for moving the blind cutting bar and the cutting die support, whereby both said blind slat material and the head rail may be cut in a common plane along the surface of the holding plate.---

Please replace the sentence beginning at page 7, line 6 and ending at page 7, line 7, with the following new sentence:

B4  
--- Figure 1 is a perspective of a vertical blind cut down apparatus illustrating the present invention.---

Please replace the sentence beginning at page 7, line 28 and ending at page 7, line 29, with the following new sentence:

B5  
--- Figure 9 is a perspective illustration of a further embodiment of the vertical blind cut down apparatus; and---

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 6 and ending at page 8, line 11, with the following new paragraph:

B6  
--- Referring to Fig. 1, the present invention is illustrated as an embodiment of an in-line cut down apparatus for trimming vertical blinds, indicated generally as 10. The apparatus 10 has a base plate 12 and a fixed component holder plate 14. The component holder plate 14 is secured to a lower channel 16, which is mounted on plate 12, and an upper channel 18 that is secured to the top edge of plate 14.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 4 and ending at page 10, line 9, with the following new paragraph:

B7  
---Thus as the drive pin 42 orbits around a relatively small arcuate path relative to the central axis of drive shaft 38, the outer periphery of boss 46 will orbit around a much greater distance. This greater distance will be coupled through crank arm 48, to cutter bar or plate 30, and plate 30 will thus move simultaneously with movement of plate 24, but over a distance which is substantially greater (compare Figs. 3 and 4).---

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 14 and ending at page 10, line 24, with the following new paragraph:

B8  
---It will thus be seen that the invention provides a relatively simple straightforward blind cut down apparatus, which is adapted to cut down the head rail and the blind material of a vertical blind in a single machine. The blind head rail cutting action is achieved over a relatively small distance using considerable leverage. The head rail typically will be of relatively thin metal, or in some cases of only slightly thicker extruded plastic material. Thus, a relatively short movement of the cutting die will sever the head rail. The blind material cutting means moves a substantially greater distance, simultaneously with movement of the head rail cutting support. This movement along the blind slat cutting path will continue after the head rail has been cut, in most cases, depending upon the number, and thickness, of the blind slats being cut. Thus, the manual effort required for cutting the head rail will be completed relatively early in the cutting stroke of the lever, whereas the manual effort of cutting the blind slats will be extended over a greater length of movement of the lever.----

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 29 and ending at page 11, line 12, with the following new paragraph:

B9  
---Referring now to Figs. 9 and 10, a modified form of vertical blind cut down apparatus is shown having end stops for presetting the lengths of the components to be trimmed. It will be appreciated that since this machine is a multi-

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purpose machine, designed for trimming various types of vertical blinds, such end stops will be required to register with the various specific components, and may have to be adjusted to different lengths of trim for different components. Accordingly, the modified machine is indicated generally as 60 and has a base plate 62, which can be secured to a bench, and component holder plate 64 fixed to base 62 at right angles. Component plate 64 is secured in a lower channel 66, which is mounted on base 62, and an upper channel 68 is secured along the upper edge of plate 64. Holder plate 64 has first head rail opening 20 tilted at an angle, and a second head rail opening 72, which is oriented to lie on a vertical axis. A third head rail opening 74 is spaced from second opening 72. The three head rail openings receive head rails of various different types of vertical blinds or window coverings. These vertical blinds or window coverings customarily have various different types of head rails, each having various different dimensions. Holder plate 64 also has a blind slat or covering component recess 76. The recess 76 is of generally rectangular shape and functions to receive the blind slats or covering materials of the blind or window covering. The coverings may be relatively wide strips of thicker materials in some vertical blinds. In this case, the strips may be formed from a metal, plastic, or fabric. Window coverings are also known in which the covering is a continuous sheet of fabric, pleated and folded in concertina fashion at the pleats, so that the entire piece of fabric, if being trimmed, must be trimmed along each edge, over its entire length. Vertical blinds require, for example, that the head rail is trimmed to the required width dimension of the window or doorway, and that the vertical strips are trimmed, by a different amount as required by the height of the window or doorway. -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 21 and ending at page 11, line 25, with the following new paragraph:

B10

-- A blind slat or covering component cutting plate 86, separate from plate 78, is also slidably mounted in channels 66 and 68. Plate 86 has a cutting opening 88 for cutting the covering components described above. A suitable cutting blade 90 is secured to plate 86 adjacent the opening 88. Both plates 78 and plate 86 are moveable to perform respective cutting strokes. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 1 and ending at page 13, line 10, with the following new paragraph:

B11  
--- The purpose of providing the two means of adjustment, namely the slide bar 104 and locking screw 110, and the stop bar 114 and rod 118, is to permit the end stops to be set at different positions, while performing the single cutting operation. This is required because in the case of certain types of window coverings, typically verticals for example, the head rail will be cut down at one end only to fit the width of a door whereas the vertical blind elements or materials will be cut down at their lower ends, to fit the height. The two trim cut will be of different lengths. Similar considerations may arise with all the types of window covering.---

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 3 and ending at page 17, line 15, with the following new paragraph:

B12  
--- A vertical blind cut down apparatus has a head rail holding plate with a head rail opening for receiving the head rail. The vertical blind cut down apparatus also has a cutting die to receive the head rail. The cutting die is movable relative to the holding plate for cutting one end of the head rail. The vertical blind cut down apparatus further has a blind holder with a blind material opening. The blind holder receives the blind materials. A blind cutting device is movable relative to the blind holder and cuts the blind material extending through the blind holder. The vertical blind cut down apparatus also has a first movement transmission for moving the head rail cutting die and a second movement transmission for moving the blind cutting device whereby both the blind materials and the head rail are cut.---